Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Focused Inspection Project: Residential Construction

Inspection data timeframe:
September 12, 2011 to October 11, 2011
This report includes inspection data up to October 18, 2011

Report Date: November 7, 2011

Government of Alberta

WORK SAFE ALBERTA

1.0 Introduction

Alberta Human Services (HS), Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) identified Residential Construction as an area for focused inspections in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The purpose of the focused inspections was to raise awareness of specific known workplace hazards, and ensure compliance with the OHS Act, Regulation and Code.

The overall goal was to enhance employer awareness of their responsibility to protect the health and safety of their workers by identifying and controlling known hazards associated with their work.

2.0 Overview of Focused Inspection Project

2.1 Residential Construction

Residential construction refers to new home construction using construction materials, methods and procedures that are essentially those used for typical wood frame single and multi-family dwellings including all walk-ups that do not have a full-time site superintendant. Examples include: single family homes, duplex, triplex, 4-plex, row housing or townhouse condominium.

Residential construction typically does not apply to apartment-type buildings or any part of a commercial/industrial/institutional building.

Inspections were conducted with prime contractors, employers, contractors, sub-contractors, employers and workers conducting work on residential construction projects.

2.2 Inspection Focus

OHS Officers conducted proactive inspections at residential construction sites across the province over the 30 day period from September 12, 2011, to October 11, 2011. Follow-up inspections continue to ensure compliance is validated with Orders issued.

For the purpose of this project, employers of the following industry codes were included:

- 02100 – Landscaping including maintenance
- 40401 – Construction, Residential
- 40405 – Residential General Contractor
- 42111 – Painting & Decorating
- 42113 – Tile & terrazzo, sale/install
- 42115 – Paving stone, sale/install
- 42117 – Heating System (HVAC) - Fab/Install
- 42118 – Roofing
- 42127 – Fences - Sell/Rent/Install
- 42125 – Floor covering, sale/install
- 42133 – Cabinets/counters, asbestos/install

42135 – Drywall, plaster, lath, stucco. Etc.
42136 – Sprinklers, underground, asbestos/install
42141 – Acoustic materials, sale/install
42143 – Wood Framing
42147 – Finishing Carpentry
42151 – Siding/Eaves trough - Mfg./Installation
42139 – Industrial coating services

OHS Officers focused their inspections on, but did not limit their inspection to, parts and sections of the OHS legislation commonly observed to be in noncompliance such as:

Part 2 - Hazard Assessment
Part 8 - Entrances, Walkways & Stairs
Part 9 - Fall Protection
Part 18 - Personal Protective Equipment
Part 22 - Safeguards
Part 23 - Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms

OHS Officers completed the following during their inspections:

- Determined compliance with applicable sections of the Albert *OHS Act*, Regulation and Code.
- Addressed additional hazards observed during their inspection. If the OHS Officer identified an immediate danger situation, a Stop Work or a Stop Use Order was issued to the employer as required.
- Issued a written Client Contact Report to the employer, documenting the results of the Officer's observations, and any Orders issued to correct observed issues on noncompliance.
- When possible, issued a copy of the Client Contact Reports to the Home Builder or Prime Contractor associated with the worksite.
- Completed a re-inspection of the worksite with the employer to verify compliance with any issued Orders.
- Ensured that all Orders were posted in accordance with Section 9 of the OHS Regulation.

3.0 Results of Inspection

3.1 Number of Inspections

This project took place between September 12, 2011 and October 11, 2011. Follow-up inspections continue to ensure compliance is validated with Orders issued. For the purposes of this report, inspection data is included up to and including October 18, 2011.

OHS Officers conducted a total of 611 inspections, 390 initial and 221 follow-up at residential construction worksites in Alberta. Inspections were completed on 387 employers across the province.

3.2 Orders Issued

A total of 394 Orders were issued to employers during this Residential Construction focused inspection project. Those included 83 Stop Work Orders and 7 Stop Use Orders.

Table 1: Orders issued, by type.

Type of Order	Count	% (*)
Order	304	77%
Stop Use Order	7	2%
Stop Work Order	83	21%
Total Orders	**394**	**100%**

Table 2: All Orders issued, by Part or Section of the OHS Act and Code.

OHS Act	Count	%
Section 2 - Obligations of Employer, Workers, etc.	5	1
Section 3 - Prime contractor	2	1
OHS Code,		
Part 2 – Hazard Assessment, Elimination & Control	60	15
Part 3 – Specifications and Certifications	2	1
Part 6 – Cranes, Hoists and Lifting Devices	4	1
Part 7 – Emergency Preparedness and Response	4	1
Part 8 – Entrances, Walkways, Stairways, and Ladders	74	19
Part 9 – Fall Protection	131	33
Part 10 – Fire and Explosion Hazards	1	0
Part 11 – First Aid	8	2
Part 12 – General Safety Precautions	4	1
Part 16 – Noise Exposure	1	0
Part 18 – Personal Protective Equipment	9	2
Part 19 – Powered Mobile Equipment	1	0
Part 22 - Safeguards	64	16
Part 23 – Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms	22	6
Part 32 – Excavation and Tunneling	2	1
Total	**394**	**100%**

Table 3: Stop Use/Work Orders Issued by Part of the OHS Code.

OHS Code	Stop Use	Stop Work
Part 6 – Cranes, Hoists and Lifting Devices	1	
Part 8 – Entrances, Walkways, Stairways, and Ladders		3
Part 9 – Fall Protection	2	67
Part 18 – Personal Protective Equipment		1
Part 22 - Safeguards		12
Part 23 – Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms	4	
Total	**7**	**83**

Inspection Findings Overview.

- 91% of all orders issued were related to the focused areas of inspection.
- 33% (131/394) of all orders issued were related to fall protection.
- 51% (67/131) of all Stop Work Orders issued were related to Part 9 – Fall Protection.
- 45% of initial inspections resulted in no orders issued to the employer.

4.0 Next Steps

OHS Officers continue to conduct inspections to ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety *Act*, Regulation and Code. The results of focused inspection projects including this Residential Construction Project will be evaluated in the overall operational strategy for 2012.